

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the ABSTRACT and replace with the following new ABSTRACT.

--A method for the liquefaction of a feed gas which comprises providing at least a portion of the total refrigeration required to cool and condense the feed gas by utilizing a first refrigeration system comprising at least one recirculating refrigeration circuit, wherein the first refrigeration system utilizes two or more refrigerant components and provides refrigeration in a first temperature range, and a second refrigeration system which provides refrigeration in a second temperature range by work expanding a pressurized gaseous refrigerant stream. Compressed refrigerant in the first refrigeration system may be cooled by refrigeration provided by a third refrigeration system. Compressed refrigerant in the second refrigeration system may be cooled by refrigeration provided by a third refrigeration system. At least a portion of the pressurized gaseous refrigerant stream, prior to work expansion, may be entirely cooled separately from cooling of the feed gas.--